United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

General Assembly
Official Records • Fifty-first Session
Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23)

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

General Assembly
Official Records · Fifty-first Session
Supplement No. 23 (A/51/23)

United Nations · New York, 1997

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ISSN 0255-1217

[Original: English]

[3 February 1997]*

CONTENTS

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL			viii
I.	ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE	1 - 104	1
	A. Establishment of the Special Committee	1 - 14	1
	B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1996 and election of officers	15 - 16	5
	C. Organization of work	17 - 23	6
	D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies	24 - 36	7
	E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	37 - 42	9
	F. Consideration of other matters	43 - 69	11
	1. Matters relating to the small Territories	43 - 45	11
	2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization	46 - 47	11
	3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	48 - 49	11
	4. Pattern of conferences	50 - 53	12
	5. Control and limitation of documentation	54 - 55	13
	6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee	56 - 58	13
	7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee	59 - 60	14

* Previously issued as documents A/51/23 (Part I) of 18 September 1996 (chaps. I and II); A/51/23 (Part II) of 15 August 1996 (chaps. III and IV); A/51/23 (Part III) of 15 August 1996 (chaps. V and VI); A/51/23 (Part IV) of 10 September 1996 (chaps. VII and VIII); A/51/23 (Part V) of 3 September 1996 (chap. IX); A/51/23 (Part VI) of 3 September 1996 (chap. X); A/51/23 (Part VII) of 30 August 1996 (chap. XI); and A/51/23 (Part VIII) of 30 August 1996 (chap. XII).

CONTENTS (continued)

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights	61	14
	9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations	62 - 63	15
	10. Integration of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance with the Special Committee	64 - 65	15
	11. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly	66 - 67	15
	12. Other questions	68 - 69	16
G.	Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	70 - 80	16
	1. Economic and Social Council	70	16
	2. Commission on Human Rights	71 - 72	16
	3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	73	17
	4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations	74 - 75	17
	5. Organization of African Unity	76	17
	6. Caribbean Community	77	17
	7. South Pacific Forum	78	17
	8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries	79	18
	9. Non-governmental organizations	80	18
H.	Action relating to international conventions/ studies/programmes	81 - 84	18
	1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	81 - 82	18
	2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	83 - 84	18

CONTENTS (continued)

Chapter		Paragraphs	Page
	I. Review of work	85 - 91	18
	J. Future work	92 - 102	19
	K. Conclusion of the 1996 session	103 - 104	22
	Annex. List of official documents of the Special Committee, 1996		24
II.	INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM	105 - 113	28
III.	DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION	114 - 122	30
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	114 - 119	30
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	120 - 121	30
	C. Recommendation of the Special Committee	122	32
IV.	QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES	123 - 140	34
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	123 - 139	34
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	140	36
V.	ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION	141 - 152	38
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	141 - 150	38
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	151	39
	C. Recommendation of the Special Committee	152	39
VI.	MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION	153 - 163	43
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	153 - 161	43
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	162	44
	C. Recommendation of the Special Committee	163	44

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
VII.	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS	164 - 179	46
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	164 - 177	46
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	178	47
	C. Recommendation of the Special Committee	179	47
VIII.	INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS	180 - 187	52
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	180 - 185	52
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	186	52
	C. Recommendation of the Special Committee	187	53
IX.	EAST TIMOR, GIBRALTAR, NEW CALEDONIA, WESTERN SAHARA .	188 - 219	55
	A. Introduction	188 - 191	55
	B. Consideration by and decisions of the Special Committee	192 - 218	55
	1. East Timor	192 - 200	55
	2. Gibraltar	201 - 205	57
	3. New Caledonia	206 - 213	58
	4. Western Sahara	214 - 218	58
	C. Recommendation of the Special Committee	219	59
	Question of New Caledonia	219	59
X.	AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA, TOKELAU, THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS	220 - 236	61
	A. Introduction	220 - 224	61
	B. Consideration by the Special Committee	225 - 234	61
	C. Decision of the Special Committee	235	62
	D. Recommendation of the Special Committee	236	62

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
XI.	TOKELAU	237 - 247	76
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	237 - 245	76
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	246	77
	C. Recommendation of the Special Committee	247	77
XII.	FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)	248 - 261	79
	A. Consideration by the Special Committee	248 - 260	79
	B. Decision of the Special Committee	261	80

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

18 September 1996

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report to the General Assembly of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995. This report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1996.

(Signed) Utula Utuoc SAMANA
Acting Chairman of the Special Committee
on the Situation with regard to
the Implementation of the Declaration
on the Granting of Independence to
Colonial Countries and Peoples

His Excellency
Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 1/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 2/ has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

"22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

"(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

"(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fiftieth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 3/ the General Assembly, on 6 December 1995, adopted resolution 50/39, in which it, inter alia:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1995, including the programme of work envisaged for 1996; 4/

"...

"11. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

"(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to

recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. Also calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1996 session;".

9. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted nine other resolutions, one consensus and three decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	50/36	6 December 1995
New Caledonia	50/37	6 December 1995
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	50/38 A and B	6 December 1995

Consensus

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	50/415	6 December 1995

Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	See 50/402	22 September 1995
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	50/406	31 October 1995

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	50/32	6 December 1995
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	50/33	6 December 1995
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	50/34	6 December 1995
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	50/35	6 December 1995
Dissemination of information on decolonization	50/40	6 December 1995

3. Decision concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	50/412	6 December 1995

10. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of East Timor" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session (see decision 50/402).

11. At its 45th plenary meeting, on 31 October 1995, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands

(Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session (decision 50/406).

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session which were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and which were taken into consideration by the Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of the Committee's work (A/AC.109/L.1840).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

13. As at 1 January 1996, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members:

Afghanistan
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Ethiopia
Fiji
Grenada
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 1996 appears in document A/AC.109/INF/34.

14. By a letter dated 26 July 1996 addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2068), the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations informed the Acting Chairman of the decision of the Government of Afghanistan to withdraw from membership in the Special Committee as of that date. On 6 August 1996, the Acting Chairman transmitted the letter to the President of the General Assembly for appropriate action.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 1996 and election of officers

15. The representative of the Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its opening (1454th) meeting, on 16 February 1996. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1454).

16. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Alimamy Pallo Bangura (Sierra Leone)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

Rapporteur: Mr. Farouk Al-Attar (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

17. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Working Group, which would continue to function as a steering committee, and the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, with the understanding that, based on the proposal by the representative of Papua New Guinea for integration of the Subcommittee with the Special Committee, the Working Group, after necessary consultations, would make its recommendations on the proposal for consideration by the Special Committee.

18. By adopting the Chairman's suggestions referred to above, the Special Committee also requested its Subcommittee to meet in May to complete consideration of the items allocated for its review and report and, in addition to considering the items indicated in paragraph 19 below, to carry out the specific tasks assigned to the Committee by the General Assembly concerning the items referred to it.

19. The Special Committee further decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (ibid., paras. 2 and 3).

20. Statements relating to the organization of work were made at the 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by the Chairman and by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Indonesia, Cuba, Portugal, Papua New Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, China and Tunisia; at the 1455th meeting, on 4 April, by the Chairman, the representatives of the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tunisia, Papua New Guinea, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, India, Trinidad and Tobago, China, Indonesia and Chile and the Secretary of the Special Committee; at the 1456th and 1460th meetings, on 22 and 24 July, respectively, by the Acting Chairman; at the 1461st meeting, on 24 July, by the Acting Chairman and the representative of Cuba; at the 1462nd meeting, on 25 July, by the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal; and at the 1463rd meeting, on 25 July, by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1454-1456 and 1460-1463).

21. At the 1461st meeting, on 24 July, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Algeria had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Committee. The Committee decided to accede to the request.

22. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852), the Special Committee took further decisions relating to its organization of work.

23. The Special Committee was invited to the Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown from 3 to 6 July 1996 (see also para. 77 below).

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

24. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Committee.

1. Special Committee

25. The Special Committee held 12 meetings at Headquarters during 1996, as follows:

First part of the session: 1454th meeting, 16 February, and 1455th meeting, 4 April;

Second part of the session: 1456th to 1465th meetings, 22 July to 1 August.

26. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon (the text of each decision appears in the paragraphs of the present report indicated below):

Question	Meetings	Decision
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	1461	Para. 140
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	1456	Para. 187
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico	1461-1463	Paras. 41 and 42
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	1456	Para. 236

Question	Meetings	Decision
Tokelau	1463	Para. 247
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	1458	Para. 152
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	1456, 1458	Para. 163
Gibraltar	1458	Para. 205
East Timor	1458, 1461	Para. 200
New Caledonia	1461	Para. 219
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	1457	Para. 261
Western Sahara	1461	Para. 218
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	1465	Para. 179

27. The Special Committee considered the items allocated to its subsidiary bodies on the basis of the reports of the respective bodies (see paras. 29, 32, 35 and 38) and adopted decisions as indicated below.

2. Subsidiary bodies

(a) Working Group

28. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee decided to maintain its Working Group, the composition of which was to be as follows: Congo, Fiji, Islamic Republic of Iran and Trinidad and Tobago, together with the five officers of the Special Committee, namely, the Chairman (Sierra Leone), the Vice-Chairmen (Cuba and Papua New Guinea) and the Rapporteur (Syrian Arab Republic), as well as the Chairman (Papua New Guinea) and the Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur (Trinidad and Tobago) of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance.

29. During the period covered by the present report, the Working Group held one meeting and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1852).

(b) Open-ended Working Group established at the 1454th meeting, on

16 February 1996

30. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, on the recommendation of its Chairman, the Special Committee established an open-ended Working Group with responsibility for making recommendations on how to improve further the efficiency of the work of the Special Committee, with the same composition and mandate as the Working Group of 1995.

31. The open-ended Working Group of 1995 was composed of all members of the Special Committee and was open to any State Member of the United Nations. Administering Powers, in particular, as well as representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, were encouraged to participate.

32. During the period covered by the present report, the open-ended Working Group held one meeting and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1842).

(c) Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance

33. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, the Special Committee decided to maintain the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, consisting of the entire membership of the Special Committee.

34. At the same meeting, the Special Committee elected Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea) as Chairman and Ms. Roslyn Lauren Khan-Cummings (Trinidad and Tobago) as Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Subcommittee.

35. The Subcommittee held seven meetings between 26 June and 8 July and submitted one report (A/AC.109/L.1843), which the Special Committee considered at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July.

36. An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the report of the Subcommittee relating to (a) American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands and (b) dissemination of information on decolonization is contained in chapters X and III, respectively, of the present report.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

37. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to allocate the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable to the Working Group as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, 5/ it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 1996, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Committee further recalled that, by paragraph 5 of resolution 50/39, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Committee for 1996.

38. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852). The relevant paragraph of that report reads as

follows:

"11. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-first session."

39. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation of the Working Group.

Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico 6/

40. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it in plenary meetings.

41. At its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, on the proposal of the Bureau, the Special Committee decided to extend the postponement of the item until 1997 and to give due consideration to requests for hearing on the basis of its usual practice.

42. At the 1462nd meeting, on 25 July, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. On the basis of the decision it had taken at its 1461st meeting, the Committee agreed to accede to those requests and, at the 1462nd and 1463rd meetings, heard the representatives of the organizations concerned, as indicated below:

Petitioners

1462nd meeting

Mr. Juan Mari Bras, Causa Comun Independentista

Mr. Noel Colón Martinez, Congreso Nacional Hostosiano

Mr. Fernando Martin, Puerto Rican Independence Party

Mr. Victor Vazquez Hernandez, on behalf of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights

Mr. Julio A. Muriente Perez, Nuevo Movimiento Independentista de Puerto Rico

Mr. Harry Anduze Montano, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico

Mr. Ronald Fernandez, Justice for Puerto Rico

Mr. Juan Carlos Lizardi, Statehood Committee

Ms. Laura Halstead-Garza, on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party

1463rd meeting

Ms. Elsie Valdés, Puertorricans Pro-Statehood, Inc., and League of United

Latin American Citizens, South-east Region

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

43. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (ibid.), the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda an item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it in plenary meetings and at meetings of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance.

44. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 50/39, by paragraph 11 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

45. During the year, the Special Committee and its Subcommittee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see chaps. IX-XI of the present report).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

46. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to consider at its plenary meetings and at meetings of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization.

47. The Special Committee and its Subcommittee accordingly took that decision into account in their consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

48. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (ibid.), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, as appropriate, and to refer it to its Working Group for consideration and recommendations.

49. Having regard to its programme of work for 1997, the Special Committee, at its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its

functions. Also at its 1464th meeting, by approving the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of its Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852), the Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1997 in connection with the above question, and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure.

4. Pattern of conferences

50. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up, as appropriate, an item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to refer it to its Working Group for consideration and recommendations. In so doing, the Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

51. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-mémoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the official documents issued by the Special Committee in 1996 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

52. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the item on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852). The relevant paragraphs of that report read as follows:

> "5. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 50/206 of 23 December 1995. By organizing its programme of work effectively, holding extensive consultations, working in informal sessions and streamlining the work of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, which had had a shorter session than in previous years, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the Special Committee continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.
>
> "6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1997, the Committee consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:
>
> (a) Plenary
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | February/June | As required |
> | July | Up to 20 meetings (6-8 meetings a week) |
>
> (b) Subsidiary bodies
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | May/June | 15 meetings (1-4 meetings a week) |

"7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1997, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Working Group recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum."

53. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

5. Control and limitation of documentation

54. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question of control and limitation of documentation on the basis of recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (ibid.). The relevant paragraphs of that report read as follows:

"8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984 and 50/206 B of 23 December 1995. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee streamline its report to the General Assembly.

"9. By its resolution 50/206 B, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it maintain its summary records.

"10. The Working Group noted with concern the decision of the Department of Public Information to suspend its coverage of the Special Committee and its subsidiary body and recommended to the Special Committee that it urge the General Assembly to request the Department to resume full coverage of the activities of the Special Committee."

55. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

56. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegations of New Zealand and Portugal, as representatives of the administering Powers concerned, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee, as reflected in chapters IX, X and XI of the present report.

57. The delegations of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee. 7/

58. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1849, as amended, on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution (see para. 140), the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the

Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration.

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

59. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work on the basis of recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852). The relevant paragraph of that report reads as follows:

> "14. The Working Group decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate."

60. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

61. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972, by paragraph 2 of which the Assembly recommended that, "on the occasion of the Week, ... appropriate materials should be published in the press and broadcast on radio and television and public campaigns should be conducted with a view to obtaining contributions to the Assistance Fund for the Struggle against Colonialism ...", and as reflected in the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance relating to the question of dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/L.1843), the representative of the Vice-Chairman (Cuba) made a statement on 14 June at the Pacific Regional Seminar, held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996, in commemoration of the Week (see para. 121).

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

62. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the following recommendation contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852):

> "4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of

decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 16 February 1996, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Working Group also recommended that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1997."

63. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

10. Integration of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance with the Special Committee

64. The proposal for integration of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance with the Special Committee, which was made by the delegation of Papua New Guinea (see para. 17 above), was discussed by the Special Committee at its 1454th, 1455th and 1464th meetings, on 16 February, 4 April and 26 July, respectively. The Committee considered the question on the basis of the recommendation contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852), the relevant paragraph of which reads as follows:

"15. The Working Group may recall that the proposal for integration, which was made by the delegation of Papua New Guinea, was discussed at length by the open-ended Working Group of the Special Committee on 29 March 1996. It was felt that, for further consideration, the delegation of Papua New Guinea should prepare a written proposal comparing the mandates and functions of the Special Committee and its subsidiary body. The delegation of Papua New Guinea submitted the written proposal on the question of integration. The Working Group addressed the issue and decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it defer any action in this regard until further examination of the proposal during the next session of the Special Committee, in 1997."

65. At its 1464th meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendation.

11. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

66. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841) and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401, on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 1995 session 8/ in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

67. At its 1456th meeting, on 22 July, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

12. Other questions

68. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (ibid.), the Special Committee decided to request the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/L.1840, paras. 11 and 12).

69. That decision was taken into account during the consideration at both Subcommittee and plenary meetings of specific Territories and of other items.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

70. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 50/34 relating to that item, consultations were held during the year between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. Further, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee participated in the Council's consideration of the related item. An account of the foregoing, and of the Committee's consideration of the item, is set out in chapter VII of the present report.

2. Commission on Human Rights

71. During the year the Special Committee followed closely the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

72. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolutions 1996/6, 1996/8, 1996/11, 1996/15, 1996/16 and 1996/18 of 11 April 1996, 1996/41 of 19 April 1996 and 1996/78 of 23 April 1996; and resolution 1996/25 of 19 April 1996 on the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, as well as the Subcommission's report. 9/ The Committee took note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on his visit to Indonesia and East Timor from 3 to 7 December 1995 10/ and his report of 18 March 1996. 11/ It also took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 50/135 to 50/139, 50/148 and 50/157 of 21 December 1995 and 50/171, 50/172, 50/174, 50/180, 50/184 and 50/201 of 22 December 1995.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

73. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 81 and 82 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

74. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Committee held consultations during the year with officials of several organizations. An account of those consultations and of the Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII of the present report.

75. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in chapters VII and X of the present report.

5. Organization of African Unity

76. Bearing in mind its earlier decision to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, followed closely the work of OAU and maintained close liaison with its General Secretariat on matters of common interest.

6. Caribbean Community

77. The Acting Chairman represented the Special Committee at the Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown from 3 to 6 July 1996 (see also para. 23).

7. South Pacific Forum

78. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the South Pacific Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the South Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

79. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

9. Non-governmental organizations

80. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 50/39 and 50/40, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The related decisions of the Committee are reflected in chapter III of the present report.

H. Action relating to international conventions/ studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

81. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 1996 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings and at meetings of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance in its examination of specific Territories.

82. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (see resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

83. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including in particular General Assembly resolution 50/136 of 21 December 1995, the report of the Secretary-General of 11 July 1996 12/ and Economic and Social Council decisions 1996/251 and 1996/255 of 23 July 1996.

84. In a related context, the Special Committee took into account during the year the relevant provisions of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/8 of 11 April 1996, concerning implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

I. Review of work

85. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, were again pursued in 1996. The measures adopted by the Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, it was recommended that extensive consultations should be held with the administering Powers concerned and with representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and that all administering Powers concerned should be urged to cooperate fully with the Special Committee. As in previous years, the Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on 12 Territories was consolidated into a single resolution (see paras. 235 and 236).

86. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2067), information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2061), activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration in Territories under colonial domination (A/AC.109/2064) and implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United

Nations (A/AC.109/2070), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2065).

87. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a regional seminar in Papua New Guinea in June 1996 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991.

88. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

89. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2063) which it recommended to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-first session (see para. 122).

90. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico, the Committee decided to defer consideration of that decision until 1997. However, in accordance with the recommendation of the Bureau, endorsed by the Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, it heard statements by representatives of organizations concerned.

91. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce to a minimum the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

J. Future work

92. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and subject to any further directives which it may receive from the Assembly during its fifty-first session, the Special Committee intends during 1997 to pursue its efforts in seeking the best ways and means for the implementation of the Declaration in all Territories that have not yet attained independence. In particular, the Committee will keep under review developments concerning each Territory, as well as the compliance by all States, in particular the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. On the basis of that review, the Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter. The Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

93. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in this connection include a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee in 1997, to be attended by the representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

94. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories which constitute the overwhelming

majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens, the Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. In so doing, the Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030 and A/AC.109/2058).

95. It is the Special Committee's intention to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Committee, as in the past, will review the action taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of further consultations to be held in 1997 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Further, the Committee will maintain close contact with the Secretaries-General and senior officials of regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions where the majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are located. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in their assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those regions.

96. The Special Committee intends to continue to review measures to bring to an end the activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration in Non-Self-Governing Territories, and also to continue its study of military activities and arrangements in those Territories.

97. In its resolutions relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly has repeatedly called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers on the matter.

98. Taking into consideration its mandate over Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a

decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

99. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Committee within the existing resources.

100. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and taking into consideration its experience in previous years, as well as its probable workload for 1997, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 1997, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

101. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-first session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 1997. In addition, the Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In this connection, the Committee recommends that the Assembly again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. Bearing in mind the affirmation by the Assembly that direct association of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies is an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories towards a position of equality with States Members of the United Nations, the Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee of the items relating to their respective Territories. Further, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

102. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly should make adequate provision to cover the activities the Committee envisages for 1997. In this regard, the Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Committee for 1996 and 1997 based on the level of activities approved for the year 1995, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. On that basis, the Committee understands that should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and

personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 1996 session

103. At its 1456th meeting, on 22 July, the Special Committee decided to request the Rapporteur to prepare the present report and to submit it directly to the General Assembly, in accordance with established practice.

104. At the 1465th meeting, on 1 August, the Acting Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 1996 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1465).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

2/ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fiftieth sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/49/23); and ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

4/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. J.

5/ Ibid., chap. I, para. 95.

6/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23), chap. I, para. 56.

7/ For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23), chap. I, paras. 68 and 69.

9/ E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51.

10/ E/CN/4/1996/112.

11/ E/CN.4/1996/103.

12/ E/1996/83.

Annex

LIST OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/INF/34	List of delegations	11 July 1996
A/AC.109/2041 and Corr.1	Bermuda (working paper)	7 March 1996 9 May 1996
A/AC.109/2042	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996: guidelines and rules of procedure	30 April 1996
A/AC.109/2043	St. Helena (working paper)	16 April 1996
A/AC.109/2044 and Add.1	American Samoa (working paper)	25 April 1996 3 July 1996
A/AC.109/2045	Anguilla (working paper)	25 April 1996
A/AC.109/2046	New Caledonia (working paper)	9 May 1996
A/AC.109/2047 and Add.1	Guam (working paper)	30 May 1996 19 June 1996
A/AC.109/2048	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	18 June 1996
A/AC.109/2049 and Corr.2	East Timor (working paper)	17 June 1996 16 July 1996
A/AC.109/2050	Tokelau (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2051	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2052	Montserrat (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2053	Cayman Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996
A/AC.109/2054 and Add.1	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996 19 June 1996
A/AC.109/2055	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	17 June 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2056	Pitcairn (working paper)	21 June 1996
A/AC.109/2057	Gibraltar (working paper)	5 July 1996
A/AC.109/2058	International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, Particularly their Political Evolution towards Self-Determination by the Year 2000, held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996	10 July 1996
A/AC.109/2059	Western Sahara (working paper)	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/2060	Question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands: consolidated resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2061	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2062	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1457th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2063	Dissemination of information on decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2064	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996	23 July 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/2065	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996	23 July 1996
A/AC.109/2066	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/2067	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/2068	Letter dated 26 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee	6 August 1996
A/AC.109/2069	Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1463rd meeting, on 25 July 1996	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/2070	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1465th meeting, on 1 August 1996	6 August 1996
Documents issued in the limited series		
A/AC.109/L.1840	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	6 February 1996
A/AC.109/L.1841	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	6 February 1996
A/AC.109/L.1842	Report of the Working Group	2 April 1996
A/AC.109/L.1843	Report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance	10 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1844	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Chile, Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela	15 July 1996

Document No.	Title	Date
A/AC.109/L.1845	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1846	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Acting Chairman	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1847	Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	15 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1848	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: report of the Acting Chairman	18 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1849	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	18 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1850	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	18 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1851	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	24 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1852	103rd report of the Working Group	25 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1853	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: report of the Acting Chairman	26 July 1996
A/AC.109/L.1854	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	26 July 1996

CHAPTER II

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

105. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

106. At its 1454th and 1461st meetings, on 16 February and 24 July 1996, respectively, the Special Committee considered the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" and the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, Particularly their Political Evolution towards Self-Determination by the Year 2000.

107. At its 1454th meeting, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of the Committee's work for the year (A/AC.109/L.1841), decided to allocate to the Working Group and plenary meetings of the Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

108. On 30 April, the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2042) were issued.

109. A detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Pacific Regional Seminar, which was held at Port Moresby from 12 to 14 June 1996, as well as a summary of the discussions held, is contained in the report of the Seminar prepared by its Rapporteur (A/AC.109/2058). The report includes the topics discussed at the Seminar, as well as the list of participants.

110. At the 1461st meeting, the Acting Chairman made a statement relating to the report of the Seminar (see A/AC.109/SR.1461).

111. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to take note of the report of the Seminar (A/AC.109/2058).

112. At its 1464th meeting, on 26 July, the Special Committee considered the question of the International Decade on the basis of the recommendations contained in the 103rd report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1852), the relevant paragraphs of which read as follows:

> "12. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Working Group decided to

recommend to the Special Committee that it organize in 1997 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"13. The Working Group further decided to recommend that the Special Committee invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session."

113. At the same meeting, the Special Committee approved the recommendations.

CHAPTER III

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

114. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance and allocated to it specific items for its consideration. The Committee further decided to consider the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization in plenary meetings and meetings of the Subcommittee, as appropriate.

115. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996.

116. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 50/40 of 6 December 1995, on the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 50/39 of the same date, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

117. At the 1456th meeting, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance introduced the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1843), which related, inter alia, to consultations with the representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat and to the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights, 27-31 May 1996 (see A/AC.109/SR.1456).

118. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted without a vote the draft resolution contained in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1843, para. 23) and approved the report as a whole.

119. On 1 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2063) was transmitted to all States.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

120. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2063) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

121. The report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1843), approved by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, contained the following statement made by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity:

Statement made by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance on 14 June 1996 on the Week of Solidarity

"Since 1972, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII), the Governments and peoples of the world have been observing annually a Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories. This celebration is in full accord with the purposes and tenets embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and is in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

"Today, when our Organization takes a closer look at its achievements, its success in the field of decolonization is universally recognized. Hundreds of millions gained their freedom and independence in the surge of decolonization following the creation of the United Nations. Their membership in the United Nations as sovereign States strengthened the fundamental basis of the international community.

"We remember the history of the struggles against colonialism and pay tribute to all those who took part in them. We remain mindful of the sacrifices that made it possible for hundreds of millions of people to achieve self-determination and independence.

"However important the success in the field of decolonization, the task is still unfinished in that area and requires further concerted and determined action on the part of all those involved. There are still peoples who have not been able to exercise their right to self-determination. These are mostly peoples of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories located mainly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. They are confronted, inter alia, by problems of their small size, low population, geographic remoteness, limited natural resources and vulnerability to natural disasters. Their situations require new and innovative solutions geared towards the implementation of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism launched by the General Assembly in 1988.

"Convinced as we are that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, we once again reiterate the legitimacy of all options of self-determination consistent with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) as long as it is ascertained that they are the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. We should continue to exercise flexibility and realism in our endeavours to complete the process of decolonization. The wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should not be ignored when examining once again the options of self-determination available to them.

"In that connection, we further appeal for the strengthened and continued support of the administering Powers, whose cooperation with the Special Committee is essential for the progress of the Territories towards self-determination. We count on the support of the specialized agencies, which should continue to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in enhancing their standard of living and promoting their self-sufficiency. We count on regional and international organizations, which should explore new avenues to provide the Non-Self-Governing Territories with legal and political opportunities for participating in programmes that relate to their environment and livelihood. We count on support for our efforts from all Member States and non-governmental organizations.

"We hope and believe that our combined, unrelenting efforts will ensure the fulfilment of the promise for freedom, lasting peace, sustained growth and sustainable development for all the peoples of our planet in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

122. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1456th meetings, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Dissemination of information on decolonization

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, 1/

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 50/40 of 6 December 1995,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization and publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization;

2. Considers it important to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. Requests the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet,

to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization and, inter alia:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate, particularly to the Territories, basic material on the issue of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(d) To encourage involvement of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Requests all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. Requests the Special Committee to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.

CHAPTER IV

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

123. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories, as appropriate. The Committee further decided that the item should be considered in its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, by its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

124. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996.

125. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 50/38 of the same date, relating to specific Territories. The Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

126. For its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1848) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1442nd meeting, on 10 July 1995. 1/ At the 1461st meeting, the Acting Chairman introduced his report, in which he stated, inter alia, that he had appealed to the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations in the sending of such missions. It had been the understanding of the Special Committee, from the exchange of views that took place at its regional seminars held in 1990, 1992, 1993, 1995 and 1996, 2/ that some territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive United Nations visiting missions.

127. The Acting Chairman reported that he had informed his interlocutors that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the cooperation of the administering Powers. Their full cooperation was essential for the successful implementation of the Plan of Action approved by the General Assembly for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. He had taken the opportunity to express his appreciation to the administering Powers concerned for their cooperation in facilitating the participation of a number of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the four seminars that the Committee had organized in the context of the Decade.

128. The Acting Chairman also noted with satisfaction that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the Council of Faipule of Tokelau, the Special Committee had dispatched a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau in July 1994.

129. As in previous years, the administering Powers consulted had reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all necessary information on the Territories under their administration in fulfilment of their obligation under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

130. The representative of one administering Power had stated that his Government's record on decolonization had been good and that its position with regard to the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories under its administration had not changed. Those territorial Governments willing to receive visiting missions, however, should first consult with the administering Power concerned. With regard to the concept of decolonization, the representative had said that the Territories under his Government's administration had democratically elected Governments and it was up to them to decide their future status. So far, none of those Territories had taken any action with regard to their future status.

131. The representatives of two administering Powers had stated that they remained open to any suggestions by local Governments in the Territories concerned regarding their readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions. The representatives had made reference to their respective communications 3/ informing the United Nations that they would stop participating in the work of the Special Committee and had indicated that they did not foresee a change of policy in that regard. However, they had reiterated the commitment of their Governments to fulfil their obligation concerning transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter.

132. The representative of New Zealand had reiterated the readiness of his Government to continue, in accordance with established practice and procedure, to provide the Committee with all relevant information on Tokelau and to participate in the related work of the Special Committee. The representative had expressed the hope that in view of the current constitutional developments in Tokelau it would be possible for the people of the Territory to decide soon on their future status, according to their own time-frame.

133. At the 1461st meeting, the Acting Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution on the question (A/AC.109/L.1849).

134. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, supported by Papua New Guinea, proposed the following amendments to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1849:

(a) The insertion of a new preambular paragraph before the last preambular paragraph, reading:

"Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar to send a visiting mission to Guam, and taking note of resolution 464 (LS) adopted on 19 July 1996 by the twenty-third Guam legislature which requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory";

(b) The addition of a new operative paragraph 5, reading:

"5. Also requests its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory."

135. The Committee adopted the amendments without objection.

136. The Special Committee then adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1849, as orally amended (see para. 140).

137. On 1 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2067) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers concerned for the attention of

their respective Governments.

138. In addition to the consideration of this question by the Special Committee in plenary meetings, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions mentioned in paragraph 125, as well as previous decisions of the Committee relating to the question.

139. By approving the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1843), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter X of the present report, relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

140. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2067) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Acting Chairman on the question, 4/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide a means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994, 5/

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar to send a visiting mission to Guam, 6/ and taking note of resolution 464 (LS) adopted on 19 July 1996 by the twenty-third Guam legislature which requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory,

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-

Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Requests the administering Powers to consider the new approaches in the work of the Special Committee and calls on them to cooperate with the Committee in its efforts;

4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate,

5. Also requests its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23), chap. IV, para. 20.

2/ Regional seminars held in 1990 in Vanuatu (A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1) and Barbados (A/AC.109/1043); in 1992 in Grenada (A/AC.109/1114); in 1993 in Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/1159); in 1995 in Trinidad and Tobago (A/AC.109/2030); and in 1996 in Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/2058). The first two were held in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the other four were held in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77, and A/47/86.

4/ A/AC.109/L.1848.

5/ See A/AC.109/2009.

6/ See A/AC.109/2058, para. 33.

CHAPTER V

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

141. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up as a separate item the question of activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration in Territories under colonial domination and to consider it in plenary meetings.

142. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1456th and 1458th meetings, on 22 and 23 July 1996.

143. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 50/33 of 6 December 1995, relating to foreign economic activities in colonial Territories. The Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990, on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; and resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995, on implementation of the Declaration. Additionally, the Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the eleventh preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 23 July (see para. 152).

144. In 1994, in keeping with its consistent goal of limiting documentation and streamlining its report to the General Assembly, the Special Committee had recommended to the Assembly that, in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to foreign economic and other interests and those on military activities and arrangements in those Territories. By adopting resolution 49/89, the Assembly approved, inter alia, that recommendation.

145. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, inter alia, information on economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities, in the following Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2041 and Corr.1, 2045, 2051-2053 and 2054 and Add.1).

146. At the 1456th meeting, the Acting Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/L.1847).

147. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago and by the Secretary of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1456).

148. At the 1458th meeting, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, by which the word "full" before the word "implementation" would be deleted.

149. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1847, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 152).

150. On 1 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2064) was transmitted to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

151. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2064) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

152. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1458th meetings, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item, 1/

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all its other relevant resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, 2/

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that constitutes an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and obstructs efforts aimed at the elimination of colonialism is a direct violation of the rights of the inhabitants and of the principles of the Charter and all relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the

indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which exploit the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories and deprive them of their right to control the wealth of their countries,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of their Territories, as well as their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. Affirms the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. Reiterates that any administering Power that deprives the colonial peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories of the exercise of their legitimate rights over their natural resources, or subordinates the rights and interests of those peoples to foreign economic and financial interests, violates the solemn obligations it has assumed under the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Reaffirms its concern about the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which continue to exploit the natural resources that are the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, thus depriving them of their right to control the resources of their Territories and impeding the realization by those peoples of their legitimate aspirations for self-determination and independence;

5. Reiterates its deep concern about those activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV), and the

efforts to eliminate colonialism;

6. Calls once again upon all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of its resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises and to prevent new investments that run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories;

7. Reiterates that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreign economic interests, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. Invites all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded;

9. Urges the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories;

10. Calls upon the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration;

12. Appeals to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts for the implementation of the Declaration;

13. Decides to follow the situation in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the indigenous peoples and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories, in order to facilitate and accelerate the exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their right to self-determination and independence;

14. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.

2/ See A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

CHAPTER VI

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

153. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up as a separate item the question of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration and to consider it in plenary meetings.

154. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1456th and 1458th meetings, on 22 and 23 July 1996.

155. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995, in paragraph 9 of which the Assembly called upon the administering Powers to eliminate the remaining military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly, and urged them not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States. The Committee also took into account Assembly decision 50/412 of 6 December 1995, in paragraph 8 of which the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session. Further, the Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

156. In 1994, in keeping with its consistent goal of limiting documentation and streamlining its report to the General Assembly, the Special Committee had recommended to the Assembly that, in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to foreign economic and other interests and those on military activities and arrangements in those Territories. By adopting resolution 49/89, the Assembly approved, inter alia, that recommendation.

157. For its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing, inter alia, information on military activities and arrangements in the following Territories: Bermuda, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2041 and Corr.1, 2047 and Add.1 and 2054 and Add.1).

158. At the 1456th meeting, the Acting Chairman drew attention to a draft decision on the item (A/AC.109/L.1846).

159. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago and by the Secretary of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/SR.1456).

160. At its 1458th meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.109/L.1846 without a vote.

161. On 1 August, the text of the decision (A/AC.109/2065) was transmitted to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations

system and to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

162. The text of the decision (A/AC.109/2065) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

163. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1458th meetings, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

1. The General Assembly, having considered the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to an item on the agenda of the Special Committee entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration", 1/ and recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, reaffirms its strong conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned could constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination, and reiterates its strong views that existing bases and installations, which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, should be withdrawn.

2. Aware of the presence of such bases and installations in some of those Territories, the General Assembly urges the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States.

3. The General Assembly reiterates its concern that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Assembly once again calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate such military bases in compliance with its relevant resolutions.

4. The General Assembly reiterates that the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and areas adjacent thereto should not be used for nuclear testing, dumping of nuclear wastes or deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

5. The General Assembly deplores the continued alienation of land in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, for military installations. The large-scale utilization of the local resources for this purpose could adversely

affect the economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The General Assembly takes note of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of those military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. The General Assembly requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.

CHAPTER VII

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

164. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up as a separate item the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and to consider it in plenary meetings.

165. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1465th meeting, on 1 August 1996.

166. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 17 of which the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session. The Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on this subject, including resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsing the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

167. The Special Committee also took into account the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/37, adopted at the Council's 51st plenary meeting, on 26 July 1996. In paragraph 15 of that resolution, the Council drew the attention of the Special Committee to the resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the Council's substantive session of 1996. 1/ Further, the Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fifth preambular paragraph of the resolution it adopted on 1 August (see paras. 178 and 179).

168. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General, 2/ submitted in response to the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of resolution 50/34, containing information on action taken by organizations of the United Nations system in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations referred to above.

169. At the 1465th meeting, the Acting Chairman reported orally on his participation, on behalf of the Special Committee, in the work of the Economic and Social Council in connection with its consideration of the item during the Council's substantive session for 1996 (see A/AC.109/SR.1465).

170. At the same meeting, the Acting Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to the relevant documentation, including the report on the related consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council under the terms of paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 50/34 (A/AC.109/L.1853 and

E/1996/85), as well as to a draft resolution submitted by him (A/AC.109/L.1854).

171. At its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Carlyle Corbin, United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands. Mr. Corbin made a statement at the 1465th meeting. In the ensuing discussion, statements were made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and by the Acting Chairman (see A/AC.109/SR.1465).

172. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement in explanation of the position of his Government on the draft resolution.

173. The representative of Côte d'Ivoire requested clarification with regard to the French text of the draft resolution.

174. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba proposed an oral amendment to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1854, by which, at the end of the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)" would be added.

175. The representative of the Russian Federation made a statement on a point of clarification in response to a question posed to him by the representative of Cuba.

176. The Special Committee then adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1854, as orally amended, without a vote.

177. On 12 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2070) was transmitted to all States and to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

178. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2070) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1465th meeting, on 1 August 1996, is reproduced in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

179. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1465th meetings, on 16 February and 1 August 1996, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-

General 2/ and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 3/

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item, 4/

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, and resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in its resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community, as well as other regional organizations, for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling its relevant resolutions,

Recalling its resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples 3/ on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom; 5/

2. Recommends that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

4. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspiration of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

6. Requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, as well as regional organizations, to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories and strengthen existing measures of support, and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

7. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

8. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

9. Welcomes the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

10. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

11. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

12. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations and, in that connection, accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

14. Commends the Economic and Social Council for its debate 1/ and its resolution 1996/37 of 26 July 1996 on this issue, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

15. Requests the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Plenary Meetings, 44th meeting (E/1996/SR.44).

2/ A/51/212.

3/ A/AC.109/L.1853.

4/ The present chapter.

5/ See E/1996/85.

CHAPTER VIII

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

180. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up as a separate item the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to consider it in plenary meetings.

181. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996.

182. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 5 of resolution 50/32 of 6 December 1995, in which the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-first session. Further, the Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 50/39 of 6 December 1995, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

183. At the 1456th meeting, the Acting Chairman drew the Special Committee's attention to draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1845 on the item.

184. Following statements by the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal (see A/AC.109/SR.1456), the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1845 without a vote.

185. On 1 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2061) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers for the attention of their Governments.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

186. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2061), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

187. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1456th meetings, on 16 February and 22 July 1996, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations 1/ and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General on the item, 2/

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 50/32 of 6 December 1995, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations; 1/

2. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

3. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate

information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

5. Requests the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.

2/ A/51/316 and Add.1.

CHAPTER IX

EAST TIMOR, GIBRALTAR, NEW CALEDONIA, WESTERN SAHARA

A. Introduction

188. At its 1454tn meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided, to take up the questions of East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara as separate items and to consider them in its plenary meetings.

189. The present chapter contains an account of the consideration by the Special Committee of the Territories. It also sets forth the recommendation of the Committee to the General Assembly on the question of New Caledonia.

190. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 50/39 and 50/40 of 6 December 1995 and decisions 50/402 of 22 September 1995 and 50/415 of 6 December 1995 and other relevant resolutions and decisions.

191. In its capacity as the administering Power concerned and in accordance with established procedures, the delegation of Portugal participated in the work of the Special Committee in relation to East Timor.

B. Consideration by and decisions of the Special Committee

1. East Timor

192. The Special Committee considered the question of East Timor at its 1458th to 1461st meetings, on 23 and 24 July 1996.

193. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2049 and Corr.2).

194. At its 1458th meeting, on 23 July, the Special Committee granted the requests for hearing from the following petitioners and heard their statements at the meetings indicated (see A/AC.109/SR.1458-1460):

Petitioner
1458th meeting
Ms. Milena Pires, União Democratica Timorense
Mr. Gerald Le Melle, on behalf of Amnesty International
Mr. Ben Wainfeld, on behalf of the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign (TAPOL)
Mr. Marc Salzer, on behalf of Philippine Solidarity with East Timor and Indonesia

Petitioner

Mr. Eliot Hoffmann, on behalf of Watch Indonesia

1459th meeting

Mr. Constancio Pinto, on behalf of National Council of Maubere Resistance

Mr. Charles Scheiner, the East Timor Action Network/United States

Mr. Steve Hale, on behalf of British Coalition for East Timor

Mr. Vince Cominskey, on behalf of Catholic Institute for International Relations

Mr. José Maria Albuquerque, on behalf of Commission for the Rights of the Maubere People/Portugal

Ms. Sharon Scharfe, Parliamentarians for East Timor

Ms. Magda Karagiannakis, on behalf of International Platform of Jurists for East Timor

Mr. Jamie Davidson, Human Rights Watch/Asia

Mr. John Miller, on behalf of Hobart East Timor Committee

Mr. Terrence McCorey, on behalf of Pax Christi International

Mr. Jonathan Logan, on behalf of Australia East Timor Association

Sister Marie Thérèse Plante, on behalf of Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace

Ms. Anna Brown, Kairos/Plowshares, New York

Mr. Alyn Ware, on behalf of East Timor Independence Committee (Auckland)

Mr. Carlos Manuel Luis, Member of Parliament/Socialist Party, Portugal

Mr. Antonio Barbosa de Melo, Member of Parliament/Social Democratic Party, Portugal

1460th meeting

Mr. Joo Cerveira Corregedor Da Fonseca, Member of Parliament/Communist Party, Portugal

Mr. Nuno Krus Abecasis, Member of Parliament/Social Democratic Centre - Popular Party, Portugal

Mr. Roger Clark, on behalf of International League for Human Rights

Mr. Marcal de Almedia, Member, Provincial House of Representatives

Mr. Domingos M. P. dos Reis, East Timor Regional Development Bank

Petitioner

Mr. Ric Panganiban, on behalf of Asia-Pacific Coalition for East Timor (APCET)

Ms. Susan Einbinder, on behalf of Free East Timor Japan Coalition

Mr. Mari Alkatiri, on behalf of Frente Revolucionária de Timor Leste Independente (FRETILIN)

Ms. Eleanor Hoffman, on behalf of Australians for a Free East Timor

Mr. Saylor Creswell, on behalf of Campaign for an Independent East Timor (South Australia)

195. At the 1458th meeting, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe had expressed the wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the request.

196. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia and Portugal. The representative of Indonesia made a further statement on a point of order (see A/AC.109/SR.1458).

197. At the 1459th and 1460th meetings, on 23 and 24 July, the representative of Indonesia made several interventions on a point of order (see A/AC.109/SR.1459 and 1460).

198. At the 1460th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sao Tome and Principe (on behalf also of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique) and Portugal (see A/AC.109/SR.1460).

199. At the 1461st meeting, on 24 July, statements were made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. The representatives of Portugal and Indonesia made further statements (see A/AC.109/SR.1461).

Decision of the Special Committee

200. At its 1461st meeting, on 24 July, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-first session, it being understood that the objection made by the representative of Indonesia would be reflected in the record of the meeting.

2. Gibraltar

201. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996.

202. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2057).

203. At the 1458th meeting, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of the question. The Committee decided to accede to the

request.

204. With the Committee's consent, Mr. Peter Caruana, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement. The representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1458).

Decision of the Special Committee

205. At its 1458th meeting, on 23 July 1996, the Special Committee decided, without objection, to continue its consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-first session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

3. New Caledonia

206. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996.

207. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2046).

208. At its 1456th and 1459th meetings, on 22 and 23 July, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing to Mr. Yann Céléné Uregei of the Congrès populaire and Ms. Donna Winslow on behalf of Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste (FLNKS). At the 1461st meeting, on 24 July, Mr. Uregei and Ms. Donna Winslow made statements (see A/AC.109/SR.1461).

209. At the same meeting, the Acting Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/L.1850).

210. The representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1461), in the course of which he introduced, on behalf also of Fiji, draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1850.

211. The Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1850 without a vote.

212. On 1 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2066) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of France for the attention of his Government.

Decision of the Special Committee

213. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2066) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

4. Western Sahara

214. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996.

215. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it

a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2059).

216. At the 1461st meeting, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Algeria had expressed the wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of the question. The Committee decided to accede to the request.

217. At its 1456th meeting, on 22 July, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing to Mr. Fernando García on behalf of Liberal International and Mr. Boukhari Ahmed of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rió de Oro (Frente POLISARIO). Mr. García and Mr. Ahmed made statements at the 1461st meeting (see A/AC.109/SR.1461).

Decision of the Special Committee

218. At its 1461st meeting, on 24 July 1996, on the proposal of the Acting Chairman, the Special Committee decided, without objection, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-first session, and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

219. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1461st meetings, on 16 February and 24 July 1996, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of New Caledonia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia, 1/

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the strengthening of the process of review of the Matignon Accords 2/ through the increased frequency of coordination meetings,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. Welcomes measures that have been taken to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields, and encourages further such measures in accordance with the spirit of the Matignon Accords;

4. Also welcomes the importance attached by the parties to the Matignon Accords to greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. Acknowledges the contribution of the Melanesian Cultural Centre to the protection of the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. Notes the positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the 'Zonéco' operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. Acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French and provincial authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

8. Welcomes, in particular, in this regard, continuing high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region and high-level visits by delegations from New Caledonia to member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

9. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.

2/ See A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14.

CHAPTER X

AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA,

TOKELAU, THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

A. Introduction

220. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to allocate the following 12 Territories for consideration by the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

221. The present chapter contains an account of the Special Committee's consideration of the 12 Territories and its recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at the fifty-first session.

222. In its consideration of the Territories, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/38 of 6 December 1995 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In paragraph 12 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, inter alia, to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. The Committee also took into account resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

223. The delegation of New Zealand, in its capacity as administering Power concerned and in accordance with established procedures, continued to participate in the work of the Special Committee in relation to Tokelau.

224. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration. 1/

B. Consideration by the Special Committee

225. The Special Committee considered the 12 Territories at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996.

226. During its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2041 and Corr.1, 2043, 2044 and Add.1, 2045, 2047 and Add.1, 2050-2053, 2054 and Add.1, 2055 and 2056).

227. The Special Committee also had before it the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance containing an account of its consideration of the Territories (A/AC.109/L.1843).

228. The report of the Subcommittee was based on its review of the political, economic and social conditions in each of the Territories in the light of the information provided by the administering Powers under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

229. At the 1456th meeting, the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur of the Subcommittee, introduced the report of the Subcommittee on the 12 Territories (ibid.) containing an account of its consideration of the Territories (see A/AC.109/SR.1456).

230. In accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, the Special Committee heard statements on the question of Guam made by Mr. Don Parkinson and Ms. Hope Alvarez Cristobal of the Twenty-third Guam Legislature, as well as by Mr. Ronald Teehan, Guam Landowners Association (ibid.).

231. The representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement.

232. The Special Committee adopted the consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2060) without a vote.

233. The Special Committee then approved the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1843).

234. On 6 August 1996, the text of the consolidated resolution (A/AC.109/2060) was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, for the attention of their Governments.

C. Decision of the Special Committee

235. The text of the consolidated resolution (A/AC.109/2060) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1456th meeting, on 22 July 1996, appears in section D below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

D. Recommendation of the Special Committee

236. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1456th meetings, on 16 February and 22 July 1996, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands

A

GENERAL

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter "the Territories",

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 2/

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Recalling its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its concern that even three and a half decades after the adoption of the Declaration there still remains a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territories, in view of the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and welcoming the recent constitutional developments in Tokelau,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Noting the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections, and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Mindful also that the holding of the seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately and at United Nations Headquarters or any other venue, as appropriate, provides an effective means for the Special Committee to discharge its mandate and promote the goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000,

Mindful further that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter "the Territories"; 2/

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries

and Peoples;

3. Reaffirms also that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of the legitimate political status options open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

4. Requests the administering Powers, having ascertained the views of the peoples of the Territories, regularly to report to the Secretary-General on the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

5. Stresses the need to seek further ways and means to enhance the Special Committee's understanding of the conditions and wishes of the peoples of the Territories;

6. Requests the administering Powers and the representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee by inviting the United Nations visiting missions at appropriate times to monitor the status of the Territories;

7. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. Requests the administering Powers in consultation with the peoples of the Territories to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

9. Calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offences;

10. Stresses that the achievement of the declared goal of eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires the full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned, in particular the administering Powers;

11. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

13. Requests the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories in order to assist the peoples of the Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

B

INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES

I. American Samoa

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the island's present relationship with the United States of America,

Noting the non-participation of representatives of the people of American Samoa in the last two regional seminars,

Noting also that the Government of the Territory continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base, and recent natural disasters,

Noting further that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements, especially the provision of safe drinking water to all villages in American Samoa,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthening other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory.

II. Anguilla

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on Anguilla from the administering Power and that the last visiting mission took place in 1984,

Noting also that information considered by the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was made available from published sources,

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993-1997,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power and all countries, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development.

III. Bermuda

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995 in Bermuda,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

Noting the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

Noting with concern the report in the Royal Gazette of 23 November 1995 that approximately 19 per cent of Bermuda's households live in a state of poverty and continue to receive some form of assistance from the Government,

Noting also the report of the intended closure of the foreign military bases and installations in the Territory,

Taking into consideration the statement made in October 1995 by the Finance Minister on the transfer of those lands for development projects,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power to continue its programmes of socio-economic development of the Territory;

3. Also requests the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with

the territorial Government, programmes of development specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of certain military bases and installations in the Territory.

IV. British Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the completion of the constitutional review in the British Virgin Islands and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

Noting also the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors.

V. Cayman Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on the Cayman Islands from the administering Power and that the last visiting mission took place in 1977,

Noting also that information considered by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was made available from published sources,

Noting further the constitutional review of 1992-1993, according to which the population expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate and virtually no unemployment,

Noting the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation of the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities,

Noting the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting also that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. Requests the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level.

VI. Guam

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the people of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for increased measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also the requests by elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is concerned, pending the exercise

of self-determination by the Chamorro people,

Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Taking note of the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam, 3/

1. Calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the exercise of self-determination by the Chamorro people of Guam for the Territory, as endorsed by the people of Guam in the draft Guam Commonwealth Act, and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

2. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Also requests the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue the transfer of land to the people of the Territory and to take the necessary steps to safeguard their property rights;

4. Further requests the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

5. Requests the administering Power to implement programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises by the Chamorro people;

6. Also requests the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities.

VII. Montserrat

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the non-receipt of up-to-date information on Montserrat from the administering Power and that the last visiting mission took place in 1982,

Noting also that information considered by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was made available from published sources,

Noting the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat,

Taking note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of a third of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island,

Noting the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both private and public sectors in Montserrat,

Noting also the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

Noting with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Calls upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other organizations, to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption.

VIII. Pitcairn

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory.

IX. St. Helena

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Taking into account the unique character of St. Helena, its population and its natural resources,

Aware of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

Noting the statement of 1995 by the administering Power that the Governor of the island would be ready to enter into debate on a constitutional review of St. Helena,

Aware of the establishment by the Government of the Territory of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

Also aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production,

1. Requests the administering Power to conduct the constitutional review in the Territory, taking into account the wishes of its population;

2. Also requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. Further requests the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory.

X. Turks and Caicos Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting the recent petition by the political leaders of the Turks and Caicos Islands addressed to the administering Power to recall the Governor and the decision by the administering Power to reject that petition,

Noting with interest the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Deputy Chief Minister of the Territory to the Pacific Regional Seminar held at Port Moresby in June 1996,

Taking note of the request by the Deputy Chief Minister of the Territory addressed to the Special Committee to visit the Territory and ascertain the wishes of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands with regard to preparing themselves for self-government, 4/

Noting the establishment in November 1995 of the Action Committee for Political Independence, formed by prominent political figures from different parties, and its stated goal of educating the population on the disadvantages of the present colonial status and the benefits of independence,

Noting also the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Invites the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. Calls upon the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

4. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking.

XI. United States Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Noting that general elections were held in November 1994 in the United States Virgin Islands,

Noting also that 27.5 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum on the political status of the Territory on 11 October 1993, and that 80.4 per cent of those who voted supported the existing territorial status arrangements with the United States of America, and that the referendum left the status issue undecided,

Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community,

Noting the necessity of further diversifying the Territory's economy,

Noting also that the question of Water Island is still under discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power,

Noting further the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

Noting with satisfaction that the Territory joined the International Drug Enforcement Conference as a full member in 1995, which would strengthen its capability to combat illegal drug trafficking,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Requests the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. Also requests the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Further requests the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

4. Welcomes the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77, and document A/47/86.

2/ The present chapter.

3/ A/AC.109/2058, para. 33 (20).

4/ Ibid., para. 21.

CHAPTER XI

TOKELAU

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

237. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to allocate to the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance for its consideration the question of Tokelau.

238. In view of Tokelau's own decision-making agenda and related changes in the legislative framework for Tokelau, the Chairman of the Special Committee was requested by the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations to allow the Administrator of Tokelau and the Faipule of Tokelau to appear before the Committee to allow it to hear, at first hand, how decisions on Tokelau's future status are being made. Accordingly, the Subcommittee recommended that in 1996 the draft resolution on specific conditions prevailing in Tokelau be considered and adopted by the Special Committee.

239. The Special Committee considered the question of Tokelau as a separate item at its 1463rd meeting, on 25 July 1996. It also considered the question in the context of the 12 Territories at its plenary meetings (see chap. X).

240. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/38 A of 6 December 1995 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In paragraph 12 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee, inter alia, to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. The Committee also took into account relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the Territories.

241. The delegation of New Zealand, in its capacity as the administering Power concerned and in accordance with established procedures, continued to participate in the work of the Special Committee in relation to Tokelau.

242. At the 1463rd meeting, the Acting Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution on Tokelau (A/AC.109/L.1851).

243. Statements were made by the Administrator of Tokelau and the Ulu-o-Tokelau (see A/AC.109/SR.1463).

244. Following statements at the same meeting by the representatives of Papua New Guinea and Cuba, in which they endorsed the draft resolution, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1851 without a vote.

245. On 1 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2069) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of New Zealand for the attention of his Government.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

246. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2069) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1463rd meeting, on 25 July 1996, appears in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

247. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1454th and 1463rd meetings, on 16 February and 25 July 1996, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Tokelau, 1/

Recalling the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau delivered by the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Recalling also the emphasis placed in the solemn declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Recalling the dispatch in 1994 of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau,

Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting also that, as a case study pointing to successful decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Also notes* Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination;

3. Commends Tokelau for seeking on the basis of wide consultation with its people a form of national government that reflects its unique traditions and environment, and for charting its own constitutional course;

4. Acknowledges the collaboration between New Zealand and Tokelau regarding the Tokelau Amendment Act 1996, which provides Tokelau's national government with a legislative power, supplementing the executive power delegated in 1994;

5. Also acknowledges Tokelau's need for reassurance, given that local resources cannot adequately cover the material side of self-determination, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

6. Welcomes the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

7. Invites the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.

CHAPTER XII

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

248. At its 1454th meeting, on 16 February 1996, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1841), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

249. The Special Committee considered the Territory at its 1457th meeting, on 22 July 1996.

250. In its consideration of the item the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 50/406 of 31 October 1995, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

251. The Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2048).

252. At its 1456th meeting, on 22 July, the Special Committee granted requests for hearing to Mr. E. M. Goss and Mr. R. J. Stevens of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), as well as to Mr. Luis Gustavo Vernet, Mr. Ricardo Ancell Patterson and Mr. Pablo Betts, all of whom made statements at the 1457th meeting, on the same day (see A/AC.109/SR.1457).

253. At the 1457th meeting, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina and Brazil had expressed the wish to participate in the Committee's consideration of the item. The Committee decided to accede to the requests.

254. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced, on behalf also of Cuba, Papua New Guinea and Venezuela, draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1844.

255. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina made a statement (ibid.).

256. The representative of Brazil, on behalf of the States parties of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) and also on behalf of Bolivia and Chile, read the declaration on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) adopted at the meeting of the Presidents of MERCOSUR on 25 June 1996.

257. Following statements by the representatives of Cuba, Venezuela and Afghanistan, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1844 without a vote.

258. The representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement. Statements in explanation of their position were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago and Sierra Leone (ibid.).

[illegible]. On 1 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2062) was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Argentina to the United Nations for the attention of their Governments.

260. The delegation of the United Kingdom, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item. 1/

B. Decision of the Special Committee

261. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2062) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1457th meeting, on 22 July 1996, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994 and A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995 and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. Reiterates that the way to put an end to the special and particular

colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. Notes the views expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly; 2/

3. Regrets that, in spite of the widespread international support for negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that include all aspects of the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. Requests the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. Reiterates its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. Decides to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

2/ See A/50/PV.8.